

25X1

Page Denied

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| COUNTRY | Korea | REPORT | |
| SUBJECT | Information on Movies and Theaters in North Korea | DATE DISTR. | 22 June 1955 |
| | | NO. OF PAGES | 2 |
| DATE OF INFO. | | REQUIREMENT NO. | RD |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | | REFERENCES | |
| DATE ACQUIRED | | This is UNEVALUATED Information | |

25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Bureau of Culture and Propaganda of each province and city is subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda, which administers and directs all cultural activities in North Korea. The Bureau of National Motion Picture Service¹ is in P'yongyang and has branches in each province and in the major cities. These branches distribute films to all theaters after strict censorship by the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda.
2. Two of the leading theatrical companies in North Korea are the National Dramatic Corps and the Classical Dramatic Company of North Korea,² both in P'yongyang. These companies are frequently sent to perform in the large cities of other Communist countries. Plays are strictly censored before they are staged.
3. The leading actors and actresses in North Korea are: HWANG Ch'ol (7806/1796), a stage actor; CH'OE Sung-hui (1508/2110/0823),³ a female dancer; MUN Ye-pong (2429/5669/1496), a film actress; and stage actors PAE Yong-hui and PAK Yong-sin. HWANG and CH'OE are at the height of their popularity and have received international acclaim in Communist countries.
4. Members of the Korean Labor Party are allowed a discount on movie and theater tickets. The tickets of military personnel are purchased from funds appropriated by the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda for each military unit. In Ch'ongjin the curtain rises at 1 p.m. for the matinee and at 5 p.m. for the evening performance.
5. The receipts from each theater are remitted to the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda through the Bank of North Korea.⁴ The expenditures of each theater are met from funds allotted by the People's Committees for Culture and Propaganda.
6. Most of the motion pictures released in North Korea are made in the USSR, but recently many Chinese Communist pictures and some Polish pictures have been distributed. After the Korean war, many movies about reconstruction and rehabilitation were shown.⁵

25X1

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

- 2 -

7. Each large factory has a dramatic group under strict supervision of the management. Members of such groups perform in plays designed to indoctrinate the workers in the tenets of Communism.

8. The following fees are charged for movie and theater tickets:⁶

| | Movies | Plays |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|
| P'yongyang | 40 won | 100 won |
| Major cities | 30 won | 50-70 won |
| Gun localities | 20 won | 50 won |

1. Comment. [redacted] the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda is divided into five sections, one of which, the Movie Management Bureau, is probably the same as this. The other sections are: Propaganda Bureau, Publications Bureau, Translations Bureau, and Lecture Bureau.

25X1

[redacted] Comments

25X1

2. [redacted] the P'yongyang National Theater group. Possibly this group is the same as the first of the above-mentioned companies. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. [redacted] modern dance recitals by the CM'OK troupes were the most popular stage productions in North Korea.

25X1

4. Comment. [redacted] the two main banking systems in North Korea were the government-operated Central Bank with branches in most major cities and the Agricultural or Farmers' Bank. Probably the Central Bank is meant.

25X1

25X1

25X1

5. [redacted] 25X1

6. Comment. [redacted] theater tickets cost 40 won in P'yongyang, 30 won in all other cities, and 20 won in rural areas. Theater tickets for civilians and military personnel were the same price.

25X1

25X1

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L